the Scheme will initially by implemented for 3 months, after which it will be reviewed for further extension.

(d) Some of the remedial measures taken/being taken to increase production of oilseeds and hence of oils in the country are:—

(i) The Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM) has recently been modified as a part of National Food Security Mission with regard to norms and pattern of assistance, inclusion of new components and additional implementing agencies.

(ii) In view of the fact that there is a constraint in area expansion under oilseeds, the thrust during the 11th Plan will be given towards yield improvement in oilseeds besides promoting the cultivation of Oilpalm, a crop with a potential of producing 3-3.5 MT of palm oil per ha. for augmenting the indigenous availability of edible oils in the country.

(iii) Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in development of high yielding improved varieties, production and protection technologies in oilseeds for increasing the production and productivity and also to make oilseeds cultivation profitable to the farmers.

(iv) Enhanced incentives to the farmers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.

Hoarding of essential food items

3425. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: (a) what steps have been taken by Government to prevent hoarding of essential food items; and

(b) what has been the outcome of these steps, particularly the details of the raids conducted against hoarders, quantity of food item seized from them and the action taken against them in the past one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Powers have been vested with State Governments for taking action under the provisions of Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. The Central Government has by its Order notified on 29.08.2006 kept in abeyance the "Removal of (Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Food Stuffs Order, 2002 in so far as they related to wheat and pulses. Furthermore, *vide* its Order dated 07.04.2008 the Central Government has taken similar action in respect of edible oils, edible oilseeds and rice. By virtue of these orders the State Governments have been empowered to issue orders regulating purchase, movement, sale, supply, distribution and storage for sale of these commodites. These will help State Governments to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure availability to the common people at reasonable prices.

(b) The action taken by States/Union Territories under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 during the calendar year 2007 as per reports received from them is as under

Under Essential Commodities Act, 1955:

No. of Raids	No. of Persons Arrested	No. of Persons Prosecuted	No. of Persons Convicted	Value of goods Confiscated (Rs. in lakhs)
207339	6474	4481	348	3809.66

Under the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980

Name of the State	Details of Detention Orders during the year 2007
Gujarat Tamil	50
Nadu	65
Maharashtra	1 3
Madhya Pradesh	
TOTAL	119

Fake ration cards

3426. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SYEDAANWARA TAIMUR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that under PDS 26 lakh of Maharashtra's 2.34 crore ration cards were found to be fake, and that 7 lakh were in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region and another lot of 1.32 lakh were found in Pune;

(b) if so, whether investigations were made on selective basis in other States also; and

(c) what is the extent of such scams at all India levle and how BPL beneficiaries thus denied the facilities of subsidized foodgrains, are being compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) As reported by the Government of Maharashtra, it took a special drive during August, 2005 to review then existing ration cards in the State. During this, 29.45 lakh ineligible ration cards were detected and cancelled. Out of these, 6.51 lakh ration cards were deleted in Mumbai and Thane rationing area, and 1.92 lakh ration cards in Pune district.

(b) Under paragraph 2(6) attached to PDS (Control) Order, 2001, State/UT Governments are mandated to conduct periodical checking of ration cards to weed out ineligible and bogus ration cards and bogus units in ration cards. Department has got evaluation of TPDS